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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS,
INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING
THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.39

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with
rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.39, the General Assembly would:

(a) Reiterate the need to ensure that all the necessary human, financial, material and personnel resources are provided from the regular budget of the United Nations without delay to the United Nations human rights programme to enable it to carry out its mandates efficiently, effectively and expeditiously;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to make available additional human and financial resources, from within the overall regular budget of the United Nations, and to enhance the capability of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Centre for Human Rights to fulfil effectively their mandates and their ability to carry out mandated operational activities and to coordinate efficiently with other relevant departments of the Secretariat, as well as other organs, bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including on logistical and administrative questions, having due regard to the need to finance and implement activities of the United Nations relating to development;

2. The responsibility for determining the level and allocation of resources under the programme budget is within the purview of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Assembly and



the existing budgetary process established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987. The Assembly reconfirmed this responsibility in its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, section VI, whereby it: (a) reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters; (b) reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; (c) expressed its concern at the tendency of its substantive Committees and other intergovernmental bodies to involve themselves in administrative and budgetary matters; and (d) invited the Secretary-General to provide all intergovernmental bodies with the required information regarding procedures for administrative and budgetary matters.

3. In adopting the programme budget for 1996-1997, the General Assembly decided that the amounts under expenditure sections represented a provisional total of \$2,712,265,200, and that the projected level of savings to be achieved during the biennium would be \$103,991,200. The Assembly further decided that the total level of expenditures provided for in 1996-1997 would be \$2,608,274,000.

4. The Secretary-General has submitted to the General Assembly a report identifying the reductions required to bring the level of the 1996-1997 programme budget to \$2.608 million (A/C.5/50/57/Add.1). That report is currently under consideration by the Fifth Committee, which will decide on the allocation of the reduction required among the various sections of the programme budget.
